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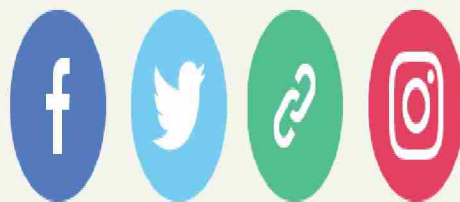
Natural gas to be funneled under Potomac River?; Meat Industry blamed for dead zone in Gulf of Mexico

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August 7, 2017

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Pipelines and protests: Why environmentalists oppose funneling natural gas under the Potomac

River

The pipeline that TransCanada wants to build is short, 3.5 miles, cutting through the narrowest part of Maryland. It would duck briefly under the Potomac River at this 1,500-person town, bringing what business leaders say is much-needed natural gas to the eastern panhandle of West Virginia.



But environmentalists say that brief stretch could jeopardize the water supply for about 6 million people, including most of the Washington metropolitan area. [Read more on The Washington Post.](#)

Bees are bouncing back from colony collapse disorder

The number of U.S. honeybees, a critical component to agricultural production, rose in 2017 from a year earlier, and deaths of the insects attributed to a mysterious malady that's affected hives in North America and Europe declined, according a U.S. Department of Agriculture honeybee health survey released Tuesday. [Read more on Bloomberg.](#)



Litigation ban on UNC Center for Civil Rights advances, and controversy escalates

A committee of the University of North Carolina system Board of Governors voted Tuesday to bar a prominent university civil rights center from engaging in litigation, a decision that alarmed both civil rights and [academic freedom](#) advocates.



The Committee on Educational Planning, Policies and Programs voted 5 to 1, with one member abstaining, on a [proposal](#) that would prohibit all centers and institutes -- though not legal clinics -- under the UNC system from joining in or initiating lawsuits. Chiefly, however, this affects the UNC Chapel Hill School of Law's Center for Civil Rights, which is reportedly the only center or institution in the UNC system that joins in litigation. The full board is set to vote on the proposal in September. [Read more on Inside Higher Ed.](#)

Navajo Nation is transitioning from coal to solar



Station is slated to close at the end of 2019, [another victim of the boom in cheap natural gas](#). To fill the energy gap, the Navajo Nation has invested in [clean-energy technology](#), specifically, the Kayenta Solar Project, a [27.3-megawatt farm](#) in northeastern Arizona. [Read more on Grist](#).

The largest wind farm in the U.S. is growing in Oklahoma. It's a sign of the times.

A new wind farm that could become the largest in the U.S. will be taking shape across the blustery plains of the Oklahoma Panhandle over the next three years, helping to wean four Southern states off of electricity produced with climate-polluting coal.



American Electric Power (AEP) and wind developer Invenergy [plan to complete](#) a \$4.5 billion wind farm called the Wind Catcher Energy Connection by 2020, along with a 350-mile electric power line. The project, announced this week, will supply Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana and Texas with 9 million megawatt hours of wind power, enough electricity for about 800,000 homes. [Read more on Climate Central](#).

FERC Quorum Restored as Powelson, Chatterjee Confirmed



The confirmations were greeted with relief by many — but not all — stakeholders.

Some environmental activists would rather the commission remain unable to approve new interstate gas pipelines. The activist coalition

Beyond Extreme Energy said that two dozen protesters blockaded the front door at the D.C. office of Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) Thursday, resulting in arrests. The protesters carried a banner asking Schumer to oppose the FERC nominees and the Energy and Natural Resources Act of 2017 (S 1460), which environmentalists have [labeled](#) the “Dirty Energy Bill.” [Read more on RTO Insider.](#)

**Standing Rock lawsuit started a year ago.
Here's where we are now**

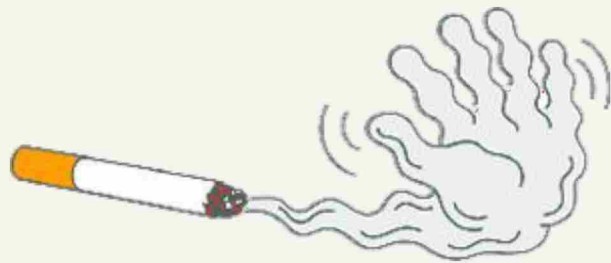


The lawsuit has now been joined by the Cheyenne River Sioux and the Yankton and Oglala Sioux tribes, but at its heart, the case remains the same since its initial filing, said lead attorney Jan Hasselman, who represents the

Standing Rock Sioux on behalf of nonprofit environmental law firm Earthjustice. He's been arguing that the \$3.8 billion energy project ignores treaty rights and needs further environmental review. The goal is that U.S. District Court Judge James E. Boasberg will rule in favor of an EIS and pause pipeline operations indefinitely, and, ultimately, stop them completely. [Read more at Yes! Magazine.](#)

Big Tobacco won't let the FDA cut nicotine without a fight

In 2009 a Democratic Congress and president gave the U.S. Food and Drug Administration the power to regulate tobacco. Eight years later, under a White House and Congress controlled by Republicans, the FDA made its strongest use of that authority. On July 28 it said it would move to cut the level of nicotine in cigarettes to non-addictive levels. The news shocked Washington and Wall Street, sending



meat industry blamed for largest-ever 'dead zone' in Gulf of Mexico



The global meat industry, already implicated in driving [global warming](#) and deforestation, has now been blamed for fueling what is expected to be the worst “dead zone” on record in the Gulf of Mexico.

Toxins from manure and fertiliser pouring into waterways are exacerbating huge, harmful algal blooms that create oxygen-deprived stretches of the gulf, the Great Lakes and Chesapeake Bay, according to a new report by [Mighty](#), an environmental group chaired by former congressman Henry Waxman. [Read more on The Guardian.](#)

Ruling deals are a blow to group fighting Wicomico farm with 10 poultry houses

A Wicomico County Circuit Court judge blocked an environmental group's legal bid Thursday to stop a chicken farm west of Salisbury that would be the largest in the county's history.



Judge S. James “Jimmy” Sarbanes' ruling upheld a Wicomico Board of Appeals decision last year not to hear the group's appeal in the case. An attorney for the board argued — and Sarbanes agreed — that the Salisbury-based Concerned Citizens Against Industrial CAFOs failed to submit its initial paperwork on time. [Read more on Delmarva Now.](#)

FDA has 6 inspectors for 3 million shipments of cosmetics



the shipments.

The [Food and Drug Administration](#) has warned Congress that it is frequently finding contamination, illegal ingredients and other problems in the soaring quantities of imported cosmetics, and that it has only “limited resources” to inspect

The warning was part of a letter sent in late June to a House Democrat who is pushing Congress to enact legislation giving the F.D.A. greater powers and resources to regulate cosmetics. [Read more on NY Times.](#)

The Rachel Carson Council, founded in 1965, is the national environmental organization envisioned by Rachel Carson to carry on her work after her death. We promote Carson's ecological ethic that combines scientific concern for the environment and human health with a sense of wonder and reverence for all forms of life in order to build a sustainable, just, and peaceful future.

Over the years we at RCC have been devoted to providing you the public with important, timely information about the environment. RCC exists because of donations from individuals like you.

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